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OUST THE ANTS  
BY STARVATION



Starvation is the cheapest and most effective way to control house ants, according to \_\_\_\_\_. The first step in ousting ants from the house, he says, is to cut off their food supply. Ants are attracted by such foods as cake, bread, sugar, and meat. If all traces of food are cleaned from pantry and kitchen, especially from cracks and corners, and if all food is stored either in a tight refrigerator or in metal, insect-proof containers, ants will probably soon leave. Tracing the ants back to their point of disappearance will sometimes show the location of the nest. If it can be reached, it should be destroyed.

Baits to kill ants are effective particularly when the colonies are few and small. A simple bait is a sponge moistened with sweet sirup and placed near the ants' line of march. When enough ants collect on the sponge, ants and sponge may be dropped in boiling water. This method will reduce the ant population but will not kill the queen ant and the younger ants in the nest.

Poison baits are more effective because they kill both the foraging ants and those in the nest. But poisoned baits must be used with care when children or animals are about the house. One mixture for a poison is a sugar and water sirup containing sodium arsenate. Use a half pound of sugar, a pint of water, and 65 grains of sodium arsenate. Boil the mixture.



When cool, moisten a sponge with it and place it near where the ants have been swarming. Another simple poison bait can be made by dissolving 4 ounces of sugar in 1 quart of water and adding one-half ounce of tartar emetic, or, small quantities of tartar emetic may be worked into a piece of bacon rind.

Such poison bait is, of course, a hazard, particularly if there are children or pets around, as the poison is disguised with food. One authority recommends placing the bait in a tin can which can be closed, first making a number of small holes in the tin with a nail or similar tool.

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